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1 *Dr. [illegible]*  
2 *P.O. Region 5*

URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.



*Mr. Muller*  
*Mr. [illegible]*  
*Miss [illegible]*  
*Miss [illegible]*  
*Library S.R.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR  
1956.





**Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council**



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

COUNCIL OFFICES

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

TELEPHONE SUNBURY 536/1 & 2209



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956

Chairman

Councillor A. Schaffer

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Miss P.A. Beardsmore

Councillors

Councillors D.G.A.Allen, W.P.K. Deed, Mrs. E.M. Flagg, R.P. Huxley, R. Jelfs, C.E. Neate, A.V. Nicholas, and the Chairman of the Council, Councillor H.A. King, J.P. (Ex-officio)

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

R. Arnallt Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. W. Wood, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

C. Willard, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

T. A. Teal, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (from 16.2.56)

Clerks

Mrs. O. W. Lukyn (resigned 31.12.56)

B. S. Bedborough (from 12.3.56)

Rodent Operative

G. D. Chapman



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Green Street,  
Sunbury-on-Thames.

July, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The report includes statistical details of births and deaths, an account of infectious diseases and a review of matters relating to health in the District.

The estimated population increased by 1,240 and 468 new dwellings were erected by the Council and by private enterprise.

The birth rate was the highest in the County and the total live births rose to 523 - an increase of 70 over the previous year.

The number of deaths fell by one.

The infant mortality rate showed a slight fall. As is usual at the present time the majority of infant deaths occurred in the first month of life. None of the deaths in infancy was due to gastro-enteritis.

There were no outbreaks of serious notifiable disease and the only deaths in this category were from tuberculosis (1) and meningococcal infection (1). Most of the notifications were in respect of whooping cough (38 cases). Scarlet fever was notified in 11 instances. Measles notifications fell to 10 but this trend was sharply reversed in first months of 1957 when the notifications amounted to several hundreds.

No case of diphtheria has been notified since 1944. Nevertheless the immunisation of children is as necessary as ever.

During the early summer of 1956 children in selected age groups were inoculated against poliomyelitis at the local clinics of the health authority. The parents were keenly interested in this measure.

Improvements aimed at securing better standards of hygiene are gradually being effected in the storage, handling and display

for sale of foodstuffs. The customer, by expecting and insisting on higher standards could assist in the promotion of these improvements.

The slaughter of animals for food for human consumption takes place on a considerable scale in the District. All carcasses are inspected by the public health inspectors. Whereas the quantity of meat condemned is evidence of the necessity for these inspections an acceptable method of controlling the disposal of diseased meat is not available. Byelaws with respect to sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses came into operation in October, 1956.

Staff: The designation of "Sanitary Inspector" was changed by statute during the year to that of "Public Health Inspector" which gives a better indication of the nature and aim of the duties involved.

A popular member of our staff - Mrs. O. W. Lukyn - retired on 31st December, 1956, after being responsible for 26 years for the clerical duties in the Public Health Department. Mrs. Lukyn has also been for many years an active member of local voluntary organisations. She is an officer in the Shepperton and Sunbury Division of the British Red Cross Society and, during the war, she was Director of the Division. At present she is Chairman of the Middlesex Group of the Women's Section of the British Legion.

In conclusion I wish to state that I am grateful to the staff of this department for their co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. ARNALLT JONES.

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS RELATING TO  
THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Area in acres	...	...	...	5,609
Population (estimated by the Registrar- General for mid-year 1956)	..			26,700
Rateable Value (at 1st April 1956)	...			£506,507
Product of a 1d Rate (1956/57)	...			£2,179

\*\*\*\*\*

Live Births	...	...	...	523
Birth Rate (live births) per 1,000 population			)	19.6 (a)
			)	17.8 (b)
(England and Wales 15.7)				
Stillbirths	...	...	...	13
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...			24.25
(England and Wales 23.0)				

\*\*\*\*\*

Deaths	....	...	...	204
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...		)	7.6 (a)
			)	9.6 (b)
(England and Wales 11.7)				
Deaths from maternal causes	...	...		Nil
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...		10
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				19.1
(England and Wales 23.8)				

Chief causes of death:

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	...	102
Malignant new growths	...	36
Pneumonia and bronchitis	...	25

\*\*\*\*\*

(a) Crude Rate  
(b) Adjusted Rate

Comparability Factors: Births 0.91  
Deaths 1.26



# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

## Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ... ..	251	254	505
Illegitimate .. ...	12	6	18
	<u>263</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>523</u>

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the population.....19.6

Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 of the population .. 17.8

Birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) 15.7

## Live Births 1952 - 1956

Year	Sunbury-on-Thames			England & Wales
	Live births	Crude rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population
1952	429	18.01	16.9	15.3
1953	403	16.9	15.8	15.5
1954	461	18.8	17.6	15.2
1955	453	17.8	16.7	15.0
1956	523	19.6	17.8	15.7

## Stillbirths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ... ..	7	5	12
Illegitimate .. ...	-	1	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live  
and stillbirths ..... 24.25  
(England & Wales 23.0)

Deaths (all ages)

Males

104

Females

100

Total

204

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population ... 7.6

Adjusted death rate per 1,000 of the population ... 9.6

Death rate per 1,000 of the population (England & Wales) ... 11.7

Deaths 1952 - 1956

Year	Deaths	Sunbury-on-Thames		England & Wales
		Crude rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 population
1952	223	9.3	10.5	11.3
1953	244	10.2	11.4	11.4
1954	221	9.0	10.08	11.3
1955	205	8.1	9.1	11.7
1956	204	7.6	9.6	11.7

Explanatory Note:

Adjusted rates: When comparing the rate of one district with that of another, allowances should be made for the age and sex distribution of the population and an adjusted rate obtained which is the product of the crude rate and the comparability factor.

Comparability factors for the District  
(Calculated by the Registrar-General)

Births: 0.91      -      Deaths: 1.26

CAUSES OF DEATH - REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S  
OFFICIAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1956

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	-	1	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective & parasitic diseases	...	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1	2	3
11.	Do. lung, bronchus	...	6	1	7
12.	Do. breast	...	-	3	3
13.	Do. uterus	...	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	..	12	10	22
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	8	20	28
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	21	19	40
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	3	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	9	13	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	3	4	7
22.	Influenza	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	4	8	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	10	3	13
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	-	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	4	1	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..		8	8	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1	3
34.	All other accidents	...	6	1	7
35.	Suicide	...	3	-	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES			<u>104</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>204</u>



# CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE GROUPS

Causes	Age in years					
	0-1	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
Tuberculosis, respiratory					1	
Meningococcal infections		1				
Malignant neoplasm, stomach					1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus					5	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast				1		2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus					1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				1	6	15
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1				5	22
Coronary disease, angina					13	27
Hypertension with heart disease					1	4
Other heart disease					2	20
Other circulatory disease				1		6
Pneumonia	3				1	8
Bronchitis					2	11
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum				1		
Nephritis and nephrosis				1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate						1
Congenital malformations	3	1	1			
Other defined and ill- defined diseases	3				1	12
Motor vehicle accidents				1	1	1
All other accidents				3	1	3
Suicide				2	1	
ALL CAUSES	10	2	1	11	43	137



# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

		<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males	...	3	1	4
Females	...	6	-	6

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - 19.1  
(England and Wales 23.8)

Infant deaths are analysed in the following table and it is shown that 6 occurred in the first week of life.

Causes	Age					
	Under 1 day	1 - days	7 - days	14- days	21- days	1 - 12 months
Prematurity	1	2				
Congenital malformations		1				2
Bronchopneumonia		1				2
Intracranial haemorrhage		1				

## INFANT MORTALITY 1952-1956

Year	Sunbury-on-Thames			England & Wales
	Live Births	Deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Rate per 1,000 live births
1952	429	14	32.6	27.6
1953	403	6	14.8	26.8 (a)
1954	461	6	13.0	25.5 (a)
1955	453	9	19.9	24.9 (a)
1956	523	10	19.1	23.8 (a)

(a) Per 1,000 related live births

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Statutory Notifications: The following cases were notified during 1956:

- Scarlet Fever: - 11 cases. All nursed at home. No deaths.
- Whooping Cough - 38 cases. All nursed at home. No deaths.
- Measles - 10 cases were notified. They were nursed at home and there were no deaths. Thus the incidence of measles was remarkably low particularly when contrasted with the previous year when the numbers notified were 288, and with 1953 when 536 were recorded. Evidence, however, is already available of the expected sharp rise in incidence in 1957.
- Pneumonia - 1 case notified. A man of 40, nursed at home. Recovered.
- Meningococcal Infection - 1 case - a girl aged 3 years - died in hospital - not notified.
- Puerperal Pyrexia - 1 case notified. Recovered.
- Erysipelas - 1 case notified. Recovered.
- Dysentery - 2 cases, both adults, were notified. Both had sonne dysentery. The infection was mild. Both cases recovered.
- Acute Poliomyelitis - A confirmed case of paralytic poliomyelitis in a man aged 30 was notified in February. The infection was contracted abroad. Recovered.
- Food Poisoning - The 5 cases notified constituted 5 separate incidents. All recovered. In two instances suspicion was directed to a pork pie and a home-made meat pie. The meat pie had been prepared in the morning and consumed in the evening and it is probable that failure to store this article at a sufficiently low temperature in the interval between preparation and consumption favoured the multiplication of bacteria. Though no bacteria were identified a review suggests that the staphylococcus was the infecting agent in at least two cases.
- Virus Meningitis - During October four children were admitted to hospital with symptoms of meningitis. They made an early and uneventful recovery. The causative organism was reported to be related to ECHO virus type 9.



The first case contracted the infection in another part of the country where there had been similar cases.

The first and subsequent cases were contacts of each other.

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The following diseases were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department by Head Teachers of schools:

Chickenpox	...	...	109
Conjunctivitis	...	...	1
German measles	...	...	24
Impetigo	...	...	14
Jaundice	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	2
Mumps	...	...	24
Scarlet fever	...	...	22
Whooping cough	...	...	5

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157 International Certificates of Vaccination were brought to this office during the year and the signature of the doctor authenticated.

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#### Immunisation and Vaccination

I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for the information tabulated hereunder regarding immunisations and vaccinations carried out in this District during 1956.

#### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

168 children in selected age groups were inoculated with a poliomyelitis vaccine containing a killed strain of the three types of poliomyelitis virus.

# Immunisations

Age (see note (a) )	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation		
	Diphtheria only	Combined diphtheria and whoop- ing cough	Whooping cough only
Under 1	37	218	-
1	7	72	-
2 - 4	5	9	-
5 - 14	58	9	5
15 and over	-	-	-
TOTAL	107	308	5

Age (see note (a) )	Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (b)		
	Diphtheria only	Combined diphtheria and whoop- ing cough	Whooping cough only
Under 1	-	-	-
1	1	-	-
2 - 4	17	5	-
5 - 14	447	11	-
15 and over	-	-	-
TOTAL	465	16	-



## Vaccinations

Age (see Note (c) )	Persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated	
	Vaccination	Re-vaccination
Under 1	306	1
1	11	-
2 - 4	2	3
5 - 14	3	7
15 and over	14	46
TOTAL	336	57

NOTES (a) For primary immunisation a child should be classified according to its age at the date of final injection, and for reinforcing injections the age at the date of that injection.

(b) i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age.

(c) Age at date of vaccination and re-vaccination.

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The number of cases of infectious disease notified in the past five years are as follows :

Disease	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet fever	29	15	12	16	11
Whooping cough	15	55	90	35	38
Measles	141	320	370	288	10
Pneumonia	2	7	1	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	2
Acute poliomyelitis	-	6	-	5	1
Acute encephalitis	-	-	1	-	-
Food poisoning	-	1	6	2	5
Meningococcal infection	1	3	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	1	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1

The numbers, after correction, of cases of infectious disease notified in 1956, classified according to sex and age, are shown in the following table:

Age Group Years	Scar-let fever		Whoop-ing cough		Meas-sles		Polio-myelitis		Food poison-ing		Dysen-tery		Puer-peral fever	Pneu-monia		Erysip-elas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F	M	F
0 -			3	2		1											
1 -			2			1											
2 -																	
3 -			4	1	1												
4 -	2			3													
5 -	4	4	6	16	5	1			1								
10 -				1													
15 -						1											
20 -		1							1	1							
25 -							1						1				
35 -									1		1			1			
45 -									1								1
65 -									1								
Total	6	5	15	23	6	4	1	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	1
Admit-ted to Hosp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

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The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by medical practitioners in each month of 1956:



Month	Scarlet fever	Whoop-ing cough	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Food poison-ing	Dysen-tery	Puer-peral fever	Pneu-monia	Erysip-elas
Jan	3	2							
Feb	1	6	3	1			1		
Mar	1	2	1			1			
Apl	2	1	1			1			1
May	1		1		1			1	
June	1	8	1		1				
July	1	5			1				
Aug		12			1				
Sept		2	2						
Oct									
Nov					1				
Dec	1		1						
Total	11	38	10	1	5	2	1	1	1

### TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New cases notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul		Pulmonary		Non-Pul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	1						
5 - 14		1		1				
15 - 24		1						
25 - 44	4	1						
45 - 64	4	2		1	1			
65 & upwards								
Total	9	6	-	2	1	-	-	-

Number of cases who have moved into the district during 1956	...	19
Number of cases who have moved to other districts	...	16
Number of cases removed from Register as "Recovered"	...	7
Number of cases "Restored" to Register	...	-

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

### Dwelling Accommodation:

It is estimated that by 31.3.57 there were in the district 8,208 domestic dwellings, and 253 commercial premises consisting of shops with dwellings (136), public houses (34) and factories (83). In addition there are approximately 420 caravans.

New dwellings erected during the year numbered 468.

The provisions of a municipal caravan site is under consideration.

Progress has been made with a five-year plan for the clearance of unfit dwellings.

### Water Supplies:

The Water Companies provide as follows:

- (a) the Metropolitan Water Board supplies Sunbury, Sunbury Common, Upper Halliford and Charlton;
- (b) the West Surrey Water Company supplies Shepperton and Littleton;
- (c) the South West Suburban Water Company supplies Ashford Common.

400 dwellings including caravans are on standpipes.

The supplies from the Companies are safe and wholesome.

Approximately 80 dwellings of various types are dependent on shallow wells yielding a supply of water which on bacteriological analysis is shown to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. Users have been advised to boil the water before it is consumed.

The supplies from the Water Companies and shallow wells are not plumbo-solvent.

### Drainage and Sewerage:

A large number of cesspools are in use. About 500 dwellings, mostly caravans, are provided with chemical closets.

### Open Air Swimming Bath:

The Bath is emptied and cleansed twice weekly. Water is drawn from the river without prior filtration and is then chlorinated. Daily tests are made to ensure that an adequate degree of chlorination is maintained.

It is regrettable that, due to the national credit squeeze, it was not found possible to proceed with the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant.

Although at the present time care is taken to ensure that the bacteriological quality of the bath water is of a satisfactory standard the installation of a modern filtration and chlorination plant and a more suitable water supply would greatly improve the existing amenities. The hope is held that the improvement will not be long delayed.



## Laboratory Samples:

37 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year.

### Water - Bacteriological Examination

Shallow wells: 20 samples - 9 satisfactory and 11 unsatisfactory.

Mains supply: 3 samples - all satisfactory.

Swimming Bath Water: 1 sample taken to check the effect of chlorination.

Milk: - 3 samples submitted to the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. All reported upon as conforming to the required standard.

Ice Cream: - 3 samples submitted to the methylene blue test. 1 sample was reported upon as unsatisfactory.

Food: - 1 sample taken in connection with a suspected food poisoning outbreak. No food poisoning organisms found.

Stools - 6 samples were examined bacteriologically for organisms causing disease, with negative results.

Diseased Meat: - 3 samples taken during course of meat inspection and submitted for examination at laboratories other than the Public Health Laboratory.

## National Assistance Act, 1948, section 47, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951:

One person - an elderly woman - was removed to hospital on a Court order, issued under the provisions of the Act of 1951, on the grounds that she was physically incapacitated and living alone in insanitary surroundings and not receiving proper care and attention.

She died four days after her removal.

## Middlesex County Council Act, 1944:

Section 357 of the Act enables the Local Authority to grant licences in connection with establishments for massage and special treatment.

Licences granted	...	4
Licences refused	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948: The following table shows the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors under this Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by the Local Authority.	4	12	-	-
Factories not included in above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	83	6	-
TOTAL	83	95	6	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)			
Unsuitable or defective	6	4	-
Other offences against the Act	2	-	-
TOTAL	8	4	-

3. Outworkers, Sections 110 and 111:

Number of outworkers	...	11	(Wearing Apparel)
Cases of default or prosecution under Section 110.	..	-	
Notices served under Section 111	...	-	

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## FOOD

### Milk:

The processing and bottling is not carried out in the District; all the milk is retailed in bottles.

A small quantity of raw milk (tuberculin tested) is retailed; with this exception the milk has been pasteurised or sterilised.

Milk for schools is pasteurised.

### Meat:

There are three licensed slaughterhouses; one of these is used exclusively for the slaughter of horses intended for food for human consumption.

One knacker's yard is licensed and in use.

The Public Health Inspectors inspect all carcasses and offal of animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption.

### Visits and Inspections:

Visits and inspections in connection with food and food premises and details of licences issued are submitted in the appended report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

### Food Sampling:

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole of the County and I am indebted to the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council for the following information on samples procured and the inspections carried out in this District during 1956:

"Food and Drugs Act, 1955: All samples taken proved to be satisfactory. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in section 47, contains new provisions concerning the descriptions which can be applied to certain substances which resemble cream in appearance but are not cream. This has necessitated the making of many inspection visits and the giving of advice to all traders likely to be concerned to ensure that they were fully aware of these new requirements.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1887-1926: Sixty-eight inspections of shops were undertaken to ensure that the Marking Orders relating to certain imported foodstuffs made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, were complied with. 216 separate displays of meat, apples, tomatoes and dried fruit were examined. Verbal cautions were given in respect of minor infringements not being found so serious as to warrant more stringent action. No infringements of a serious nature were disclosed.

The Labelling of Food Order, 1953: This Order requires that, in general, pre-packed foods shall bear on the label a clear statement of the designation of the food and, in the case of compound foods, the ingredients. It also requires that the name and address of the packer or labeller appears. At 24 premises 170 articles of pre-packed food were examined. No pro-

ceedings were taken in respect of any of the infringements detected and manufacturers took immediate steps to correct unsatisfactory labels as soon as their attention was drawn to them.

False or Misleading Descriptions: A considerable amount of work is carried out each year in scrutinising advertisements and the labelling of pre-packed food and taking such action as is possible to secure satisfactory amendments in those cases where a label or advertisement contains a false or misleading description of the food to which it relates. This work is of benefit to all districts of Middlesex, irrespective of where the offending advertisement or label is discovered, and during the year under review corrective action has been taken in respect of cherry wine, biscuits, chocolate Easter eggs, flour and sugar confectionery, imitation caviare, blackcurrant punch, fruit juice drinks and creme de menthe.

Special Designated Milk: Nine samples of pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. All were certified as being satisfactory.

Safe Milk: In addition to the foregoing, six samples of raw milk were procured within the District and submitted to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. None was found contaminated.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - List of Samples  
procured within the Urban District of  
Sunbury-on-Thames during the year 1956

<u>Article</u>		<u>Total Samples Procured</u>
Milk, various	...	11
Arrowroot	...	2
Butter	...	3
Cream	...	6
Drugs	...	6
Fish	...	3
Fish products	...	2
Fruit	...	3
Fruit, canned	...	2
Ice Cream	...	1
Liver	...	3
Margarine	...	2
Meat	...	2
Sausages, etc.	...	2
Vinegar	...	13
Wines and spirits	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	6

NOTE: All samples were  
satisfactory.

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Sunbury-on-Thames.  
July, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1956.

Special attention was given to the inspection of food premises following the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations which came into force at the beginning of the year. Reference is made to this aspect of the department's work later in the report.

Efforts were made to reduce the number of unfit dwellings in the District and the Public Health Committee selected some 25 properties to be dealt with in their first year's programme. All these properties have been represented as being unfit for human habitation but so far there have, unfortunately, been no families rehoused directly as a result of slum clearance procedure. It is hoped that as the Council's building programme expands it will be found possible to accommodate the occupants of the houses included in the first year's scheme and subsequent proposals.

The total number of animals slaughtered in the three local slaughterhouses showed a considerable increase compared with the previous year (1955 - 18,350: 1956 - 29,571). Once again it has been possible to secure 100 per cent inspection but to do this it has been necessary for your inspectors to continue to work during evenings and at weekends.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their support during the year and record my appreciation of the assistance given me by members of the staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. W. WOOD.

Chief Public Health Inspector

## COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Condition of premises	...	...	75
Choked or defective drains	...	...	53
Defective dustbins	...	...	14
Moveable dwellings	...	...	15
Verminous premises:			
(a) rats and mice	...	...	206
(b) bugs and fleas	...	...	8
(c) other insects	...	...	9
Offensive deposits	...	...	23
Noise, smoke and smell nuisances	...	...	28
Unsound food	...	...	5
Keeping of animals	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	71
			<hr/>
			520

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act, 1936:			
(a) primary inspections	...	...	78
(b) re-inspections	...	...	209
Housing Acts:			
(a) primary inspections	...	...	137
(b) re-inspections	...	...	362
Housing enquiries (applications etc.)	...	...	23
Factories - mechanical power	...	...	83
- non-mechanical power	...	...	12
Outworkers' premises	...	...	88
Hawkers	...	...	6
Licensed premises	...	...	2
Places of public entertainment	...	...	10
Slaughterhouses	...	...	62
Knackers yard	...	...	24
Food shops	...	...	116
Food preparing premises	...	...	142
Food inspection - meat	...	...	1,706
- other foods	...	...	8
Sampling - water	...	...	29
- milk	...	...	3
- ice cream	...	...	3
Water supplies	...	...	14
Moveable dwellings	...	...	83
Deposits of refuse	...	...	71
Tips	...	...	192
Dustbins	...	...	106
Keeping of animals	...	...	55
Rodent control	...	...	1,852
Vermin and other pests	...	...	52
Smoke abatement	...	...	54

(Continued)



Drainage	...	...	226
Infectious diseases	...	...	37
Petroleum Acts	...	...	44
Appointments with owners or agents	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	190
			<u>6,110</u>

#### NOTICES SERVED

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts.	78	14
Factories Act, 1937.	6	-
Food Hygiene Regulations	29	-

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

1. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	215
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	786
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation	...	12
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses where defects were found to exist (excluding those referred to under preceding heading)		83
3.	Number of dwellinghouses where defects were remedied as the result of informal action	...	50

#### Action under Statutory Powers during the year

4.	Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	1
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice		
(i)	By owners	... ..	-
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	1



5. Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936:
  - (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 13
  - (b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... 10
6. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made or Undertakings given ... 4
  - (b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished ... 2
7. Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:
  - (a) Number of Closing Orders made under Section 10 ... 2
  - (b) Number of dwellinghouses closed ... 3

#### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	4
Certificates granted	...	...	4
Applications received for revocation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	2
Certificates of Revocation granted	...	...	2

#### PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS

The Council is responsible for the licensing of premises at which petroleum (including certain petroleum mixtures) is stored.

The number of establishments licensed is 40.

#### RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two factories are engaged in the upholstery of furniture and bedding and are registered under the above Act.

#### BYELAWS

Byelaws were made by the Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, with respect to

- (a) Sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses and
- (b) Sanitary conditions, management and keeping of records for knacker's yards.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises: The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the area

Slaughterhouses	...	...	3
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	29
Factory Canteens	...	...	18
School Kitchens	...	...	11
Butchers	...	...	17
Grocers and 'General Stores'	...	...	54
Bakery and Confectioners	...	...	6
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	7
Greengrocers...	...	...	16
Licensed Premises	...	...	34
Sweets and Tobacco	...	...	29
Milk Depots	...	...	2
Warehouses	...	...	2
Confectionery Manufacturer	...	...	1
Soft Drink Manufacturer	...	...	1
Ice Cream Manufacturer	...	...	1
			<u>231</u>

Premises Registered under Section  
16 of the Food & Grugs Act, 1955:

(a)	Ice cream manufacture	...	1
(b)	Storage and sale of ice cream		80
(c)	Manufacture of sausages and preserved food		17

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation)  
(Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, and the  
Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949:

	Dealers Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	...	5
Sterilised	...	13
Tuberculin Tested	...	5

Food Hygiene - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1956:

Legislation strengthening the requirements relating to hygiene in food premises came into force at the beginning of the year. Attention has been directed to the inspection of places where food is prepared, stored or sold and particular attention has been given to the inspection of cafes, factory canteens, school canteens and butchers shops.

A summary of the main provisions of the regulations was sent to all food traders prior to inspections being made. Notices have been served where premises have been found not to be satisfactory and in the main the work required has been carried out without serious objection by the traders.



It is often difficult in some of the older shops to comply fully with the Regulations, the shops themselves not having been designed for the food trade. Where new premises have been built, or structural alterations have been carried out to existing premises, it has been possible to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations are satisfied.

Whilst the new legislation relating to persons, premises and equipment is a desirable step the vital link in the chain is the food-handler and wherever possible the opportunity is taken to stress the essential hygienic precautions which this person must take in serving the public.

The public have become in recent years more aware of the need for clean food but, in my opinion, further improvements could be secured if they were more particular with regard to the manner in which food is sometimes served to them and by reporting flagrant examples of unhygienic practices to the Public Health Department.

#### Ice Cream (Feat Treatment) Regulations:

No manufacture of ice cream took place during the year at the one establishment registered for this purpose.

The sale of ice cream is almost entirely limited to the pre-packed variety and in all instances compliance with the above Regulations was found to be satisfactory.

#### Meat Inspection:

Details of animals slaughtered and inspected, and carcasses condemned, are shown in a table on the following page.

Two slaughterhouses continued to be used as Deadweight Certification Centres for pigs in connection with the Government Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

8,090 pigs were certified by your inspectors as being eligible for guarantee payment and the Council received £208 for undertaking this service on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

#### Disposal of Condemned Food:

Meat condemned at slaughterhouses is disposed of by

- (a) sale to pet-food traders, or
- (b) sale to an industrial plant for manufacture of fertilizers, etc.

Other food condemned (i.e. at local shops) is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Refuse Plant.

In addition to food condemned at slaughterhouses the following was found to be unfit:

Canned Meat - Government Store	- 708 lbs	Pigs plucks ..	122 lbs
Canned Meat - Shops	... 63 lbs	Pork .. ..	35 lbs
Imported Beef	... 111 lbs	Apricot Pulp	22 lbs
Imported Liver	... 100 lbs	Canned Fruit	
		& Vegetables	12 lbs



Details of animals slaughtered,  
inspected and carcasses condemned

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	256	1,469	1,950	1,284	24,419	193
Number inspected	256	1,469	1,950	1,284	24,419	193
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	4	2	10	2
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was condemned	111	537	2	90	2,647	49
Percentage of num- ber inspected af- fected with disease other than tubercul- osis & cysticerci	43.75	36.89	0.31	7.16	10.88	26.42
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	33	-	-	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was condemned	7	254	-	-	271	-
Percentage of num- ber inspected affec- ted with tuberc- ulosis	3.51	19.53	-	-	1.12	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was condemned	-	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration treatment	-	3	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	2	-	-	-	-

Approximately 25 tons of meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

In addition 2,000 lbs of imported frozen cow-beef was condemned at a local slaughterhouse. This meat was disposed of by use as cat and dog food (400 lbs) and by sale to an industrial firm for conversion to fertilizers and animal feedingstuff (1,600 lbs).

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Complaints of infestations of rats or mice have been readily dealt with by your Rodent Operative.

The service is provided free for domestic premises but a charge is made for work carried out at business premises. The following summary indicates the work carried out:

Complaints received	...	...	206
Domestic premises treated	...	...	195
Business premises treated	...	...	21
Visits made by Rodent Operative	...		1,620
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors	...		232

During July a maintenance treatment covering 10 per cent of the sewer manholes was undertaken but no evidence of rat infestation was found to exist. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was informed and it has been agreed to suspend further sewer treatments until 1959.

#### Other Pests:

Your Operative also undertakes the destruction of wasps nests where a nuisance is caused and where it is practicable for the nest to be destroyed.

A charge of 10s. 6d is made for the service.

#### Disinfections and Disinfestations:

Disinfections	- Premises	...	2
	Bedding	...	2
	Clothing	...	2
	Books	...	20
Disinfestations	- Premises	...	7

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